WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Environmental clearance to Upper Krishna Project

*21. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka had submitted proposals for environmental clearance to Upper Krishna Project, Stage-I, Phase-III, and Stage II in 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether necessary clearance has been accorded;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the clearance is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Proposals for environmental clearance in respect of Upper Krishna Project Stage-I, Phase III, and Stage II were received from Government of Karnataka in September, 1996. In view of the dispute between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Governments regarding sharing of water from Krishna river, the project was referred to Ministry of Water Resources for their advice.

Ministry of Water Resources informed this Ministry in May, 1997 that Planning Commission has given investment clearance to Upper Krishna Project Stage-I and, therefore, Phase III of Stage I could be considered for environmental clearance; Stage II may, however, be considered for clearance from environmental angle only after approval by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Ministry of Water Resources. TAC of Ministry of Water Resources has not yet approved Stage II of Upper Krishna Project.

Hence, only the proposal for Stage I, Phase-III was examined in the Ministry. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee on River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects, the project authority was requested to submit details of the public hearing report in June, 1999. The details are still awaited.